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A study of the *Acalolepta permutans* species group (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

FRANCESCO VITALI

National Museum of Natural History, rue Münster 24, L-2160 Luxembourg, Luxembourg. – vitali@mnhn.lu
- ZooBank : http://zoobank.org/4E4C673A-6CB6-4935-A5FA-17686C686EF2

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Indochina.

Abstract. – The species closely related to *Acalolepta permutans* (Pascoe, 1857) are analysed. *Orsidis semisericeus* Pic, 1935 is considered a subspecies of *Acalolepta permutans* (Pascoe, 1857) resulting in the following new status: *Acalolepta permutans semisericea* (Pic, 1935). The following taxa are all considered new synonyms of *A. permutans semisericea*: *Dihammus mutans* Breuning, 1938, *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* Breuning, 1965, *Cypriola permutans occidentalis* Breuning, 1958 and *Acalolepta paraspeciosa* Breuning, 1982.

Vitali F., 2022. – A study of the *Acalolepta permutans* species group (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae). *Faunitaxys*, 10(59): 1 – 7.

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Introduction

Acalolepta Pascoe, 1858 contains about 250 species and numerous revisional papers (Vitali, 2010, 2011, 2016a, 2016b, 2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2018, 2019a, 2019b; Vitali & Casadio, 2007; Vitali & Fahri, 2019; Vitali & Goussey, 2014) have already been dedicated to the study of this genus.
Acalolepta permutans (Pascoe, 1857) is a Chinese species present in many collections due to international trade. It is well characterised by dense, golden velvet pubescence, the elytral base covered with irregular black granules and the short pronotal teeth. Nonetheless, the literature refers, often with figures, to the presence of several taxa seemingly indistinguishable from this species, which raises serious doubts about real identities.
A trip to the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels (Belgium) in August 2021 along with the study of photographs kindly provided by Gérard Chemin through the Forum of the Website www.cerambycoidea.com have allowed clarifying this topic.

Examined collections

– **BPBM**: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii (USA)
– **CDK**: Collection Dmitry A. Kuleshov, Tomsk (Russia)
– **CFV**: Collection Francesco Vitali, Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
– **CGC**: Collection Gérard Chemin, Champigny, (France)
– **CGV**: Collection Gyula Vida, Gyõr (Hungary)
– **CVN**: Collection Vitali Nagirnyi, Tartu (Estonia)
– **CWT**: Collection William Tyson, Coarsegold, California (USA)
– **CXG**: Collection Xavier Gouverneur, Rennes (France)
– **RBINS**: Royal Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels (Belgium)
– **MNHNP**: National Museum of Natural History, Paris (France)
– **USNM**: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. (USA)

Results

Acalolepta permutans permutans (Pascoe, 1857)

(Fig. 1)

Monohammus permutans Pascoe, 1857: 103 (South/East China)
= *Monohammus vicinus* Pascoe, 1858: 245 (South/East China)
= *Monohamus severini* Nonfried, 1892: 86, 94 (China, Guangxi)

Examined material.

- **1** ♂, China, *in* RBINS;
- **1** ♂, Hong Kong // Coll. E. Candèze // Cypriola permutans Pasc. / Breuning det., *in* RBINS;
- **1** ♀, Coll. Nonfried / China // permutans = vicinus Pasc. // Monohammus / severini Nfr, *in* RBINS;
- **1** ♂, Haplohammus / permutans Pasc. / China, *in* RBINS;
- **1** ♂ & **1** ♀, China, Guangxi, Tongmu, Jingxiu, 10/20-VII-2011, H. X. Shun lgt., *in* CFV;
- **2** ♀, Guangxi, Jinxiu, Pingban, Mt. Dayaoshan, 1100, VI-2015, L. X. Chang lgt., *in* CFV;
- **1** ♂, Guangxi, Wuming, Mt. Damingshan, 11-VI-2012, *in* CVN;
- **1** ♀, Formosa / Regenzeit [= rain season] / Frühstorfer // Monoh. permutans Pascoe // Permutans / Formose Pasc. // ex coll. F. de Moffarts, *in* RBINS.

Remarks. – Pascoe (1857) described *Monohammus permutans* based on some specimens collected by Robert Fortune (1813–1880) in “China Borealis” and in a previous article, Pascoe (1856) had written that Fortune collected such specimens in “North China”. In one of the books (Fortune, 1847) that this eminent botanist and voyager wrote, we are made aware that Fortune landed at Canton (now, Guangzhou, Guangdong), visited Honk Kong, Amoy (now, Xiamen, Fujian), Koo-Lung-Soo Island (now, Gulangyu, Fujian), Chimoo Bay (now, Shenhu, Fujian), Chinchew Bay (now,

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Alain Drumont (*Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, DO Taxonomie et Phylogénie, Bruxelles, Belgique*)
- Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9357-473X - ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/6D7F2B1A-3A55-4E84-9030-E9C5F55F9643

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Quanzhou, Fujian), Chusan Island (now, Zhoushan, Zhejiang), Ning-po (now, Ningbo, Zhejiang) and Shangai, which was the more northern locality of his trip. Thus, what Fortune and Pascoe called “North China” were actually the current provinces Guangdong, Fujian and Zhejiang, all located in southern and eastern China. These regions are exclusively inhabited by specimens characterised by scape, legs and frons covered by sparse punctures.

Distribution. – According to the literature data (Gressitt, 1951b) and the examined material, this species is widespread in South and East China, *i.e.*, Guangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Jiangxi, Fujian and Zhejiang. The website iNaturalist provides a picture of a female from Jiangsu as well (Nanjiing, 32.047356; 119.016978, 21-VI-2022; www.inaturalist.org/observations/123455902). This taxon seems to be limited northwards by the North China Plain (Fig. 9) and to be strangely absent from Hainan (Gressitt, 1940).

Several authors recorded this species from further regions: Breuning (1944) and Gressitt (1951b) from Tonkin; Mukhopadhyay & Biswas (2000) and Mitra *et al.* (2016) from India (Meghalaya, Assam), though Kariyanna *et al.* (2017) did not take in account these data; Hua (2002) from Taiwan, Japan and Vietnam; Hua *et al.* (2009) from Yunnan, Japan and Vietnam; Barševskis (2020) from Laos. All these records must be referred to the following taxa.

Acalolepta permutans paucipunctata (Gressitt, 1938)

(Fig. 2)

Dihammus permutans paucipunctatus Gressitt, 1938: 157, 159 (China, Taiwan, Bukai)

Examined material.

- HOLOTYPE ♂, Bukai / Formosa / VI-15-’34 // L. Gressitt / Collector // 52193 // Holotype / Dihammus / permutans / paucipunctatus / J. L. Gressitt [printed on a red label] // Holotype No / 53454 / U.S.N.M., *in* USNM;

- **1** ♀, Taman IV / Formosa [recto] // Rolle … [illegible] 7-1910 [verso] // Monohamus permutans Pasc. // S. Breuning det. 1952 / Cypriola permutans Pasc., *in* RBINS.

Remarks. – Gressitt (1938) described this subspecies from some specimens from Taiwan (Fig. 7) characterised by impunctate frons and scape. This taxon is also characterised by the grey pubescence on the scape (golden in continental subspecies). The RBINS conserves a specimen collected by Frühstorfer in Taiwan but belonging to the typical form. I do not know if it is about an introduced specimen, a wrong label, or the typical form is really present in Taiwan. This last fact might be reason to consider *paucipunctata* as a full species.

Distribution. – Breuning (1944) and Gressitt (1951b) considered this taxon a Taiwanese endemism until Makihara (1992) recorded it from the Sakishima Islands (Ishigaki and Iriomote), ~180 km east of Taiwan. Hua (2002) recorded this subspecies from Yunnan as well, misidentifying it with another subspecies, but Hua *et al.* (2009) eliminated this record.

Acalolepta permutans okinawana (Gressitt, 1951)

Dihammus permutans okinawanus Gressitt, 1951a: 216, fig. 2 (Japan, Ryukyu, Okinawa)
Dihammus teragramus Gilmour, 1951: 67 (Japan, Ryukyu)

Examined material. None.

Remarks. – This subspecies differs from the previous one in antennomeres 3-10 slightly thickened distally. The specimens from Okinawa, which I could only examine through photographs on Japanese websites, do not significantly differ from those from Taiwan. The size of Okinawa and its distance from Ishigaki (380 km) and Taiwan (580 km) make almost improbable a natural colonisation of *A. permutans paucipunctata* starting from these islands. Moreover, no *A. permutans* have been recorded from Tarama or Miyako, located in the direction of Okinawa, respectively only 35 and 95 km east of Ishigaki (Makihara, 1992). This suggests either an old colonisation of Okinawa or an almost recent (anthropic) introduction. Waiting for further analyses, the current taxonomy is left as is.

Acalolepta permutans semisericea (Pic, 1935) **n. status**

(Fig. 3-8)

Dihamus semisericeus Pic, 1935: 17 (China, Sichuan) (Fig. 4)

= *Dihammus semisericeus* Breuning, 1936: 292, nec Pic, 1935 (China, Sichuan)

= *Dihammus mutans* Breuning, 1938: 32 (India, Assam, Naga Hills) **n. syn**. (Fig. 5)

= *Cypriola permutans occidentalis* Breuning, 1957: 268 (China, Sichuan) **n. syn**. (Fig. 6)

= *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* Breuning, 1965: 45 (Laos, Vientiane, Phou Khao Khouay) **n. syn**. (Fig. 7)

= *Acalolepta paraspeciosa* Breuning, 1982: 19 (China, Xizang) **n. syn**. (Fig. 8)

= *Dihammus permutans* Breuning, 1944: 462 (*partim*)

= *Dihammus permutans permutans* Gressitt, 1951: 402 (*partim*)

= *Acalolepta permutans* Breuning, 1961: 371 (*partim*); HUA *et al.*, 2009: 193, 331 (*partim*); Mitra *et al.*, 2016: 43, table 1 misidentification

= *Monochamus permutans* Mukhopadhyay & Biswas, 2000: 64 misidentification

= *Acalolepta permutans permutans* Hua, 2002: 190 (*partim*); Barševskis, 2020: 177 misidentification

Examined material.

- *Orsidis semisericeus* Pic, 1935,

HOLOTYPE ♂, Chine / Szchecuan [handwritten by Pic] // Orsidis / semisericeus / (nov.) [handwritten by Pic] // Holotype [printed on a red label] // Museum Paris / Coll. M. Pic [printed on a white label], *in* MNHNP.

- *Dihammus mutans* Breuning, 1938,

HOLOTYPE ♂, Assam / Naga Hills // Coll. RBINS / ex coll. Le Moult [printed on a yellow label] // Dihammus / mutans / mihi Typ. / det. Breuning [handwritten by Breuning and printed on a white label] // Holotype [printed on a red label], *in* RBINS.

- *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* Breuning, 1965,

HOLOTYPE ♂, Phou Khao Khoay / 16.7.[19]64 / Vientiane / J. A. Rondon [handwritten by Rondon and printed on a white label] / S. Breuning det., 1965 / *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* [handwritten by Breuning and printed on a white label], *in* BPBM.

- *Cypriola permutans occidentalis* Breuning, 1957,

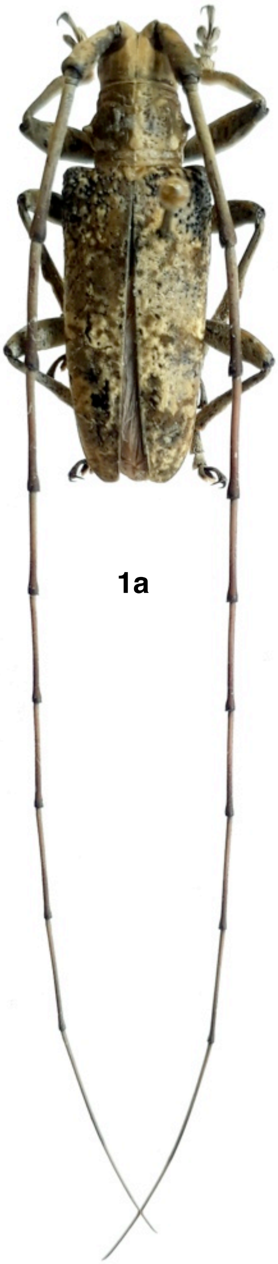
HOLOTYPE ♂, Su-Tchuen / Chasseurs Indigènes / 1903 // Cypriola / permutans / occidentalis / mihi Typ. / det. Breuning [handwritten by Breuning and printed on a white label] // Holotype [printed on a red label], *in* MNHNP;

PARATYPE, 1♀, Su-Tchuen / Chasseurs Indigènes / 1903 // Cypriola / permutans / occidentalis / mihi Typ. / det. Breuning [handwritten by Breuning and printed on a white label] // Paratype [printed on a red label], *in* MNHNP.

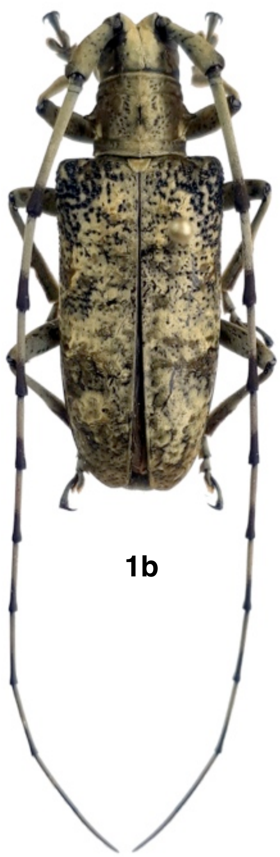
- *Acalolepta paraspeciosa* Breuning, 1982,

HOLOTYPE ♂, Thibet // Acalolepta / paraspeciosa / mihi Typ. / det. Breuning [handwritten by Breuning and printed on a white label] // Holotype [printed on a red label], *in* MNHNP;

1 ♂, [**Cina**,] Yunnan, *in* RBINS;



1a



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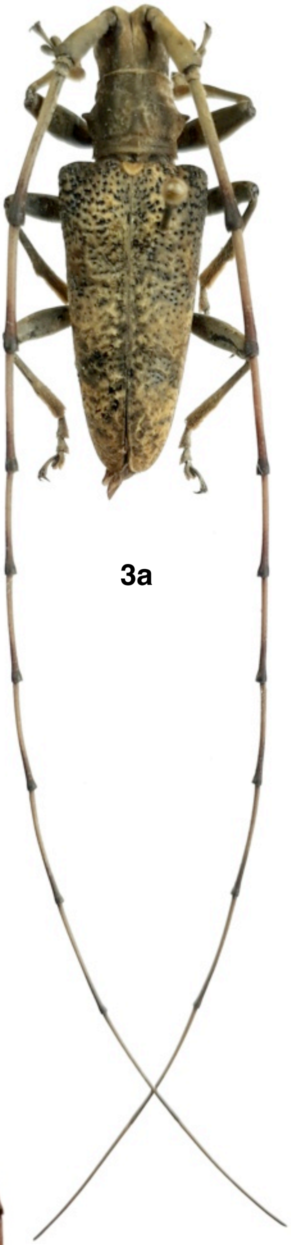
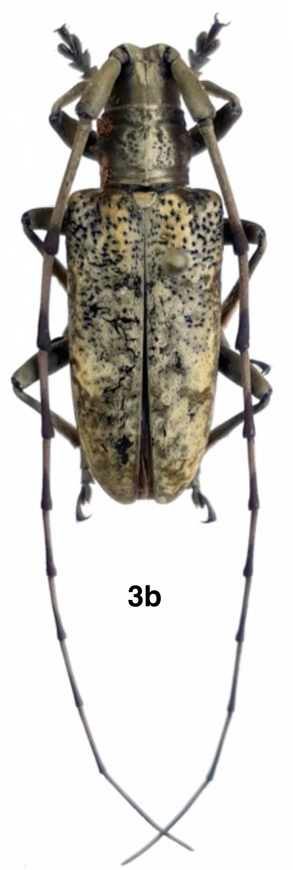
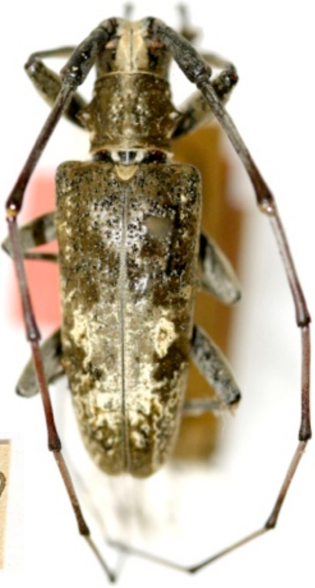


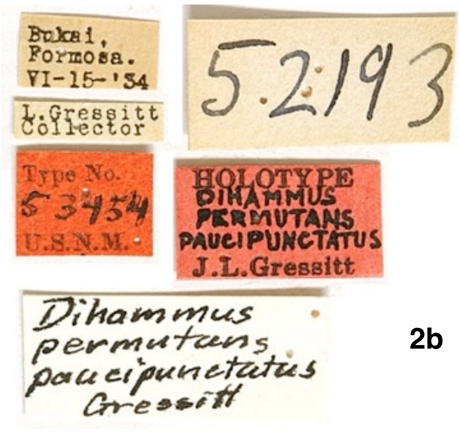
3a



3b



2a



Bukai, Formosa. VI-15-'34

L.Gressitt Collector

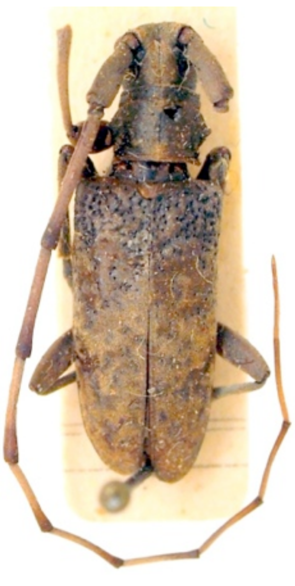
5.2.193

Type No. 53454 U.S.N.M.

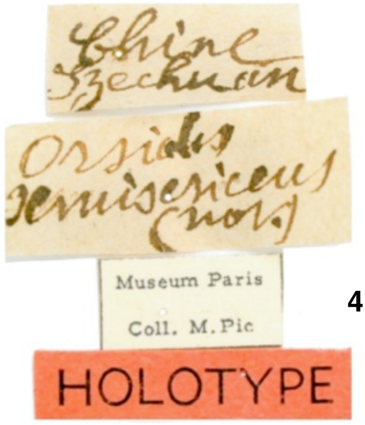
HOLOTYPE
DIHAMMUS PERMUTANS PAUCIPUNCTATUS
J.L.Gressitt

Dihammus permutans paucipunctatus Gressitt

2b



4a



Chine Szechuan

Orsidis semisericeus (nov.)

Museum Paris
Coll. M. Pic

HOLOTYPE

4b

Fig. **1**. *Acalolepta permutans permutans* (Pascoe, 1857). **1a**. ♂, Guangxi (CFV). **1b**. ♀, Guangxi (CFV).
Fig. **2**. *Dihammus permutans paucipunctatus* Gressitt, 1938, ♂, holotype (USNM).
Fig. **3**. *Acalolepta permutans semisericea* (Pic, 1935). **3a**. ♂, Vietnam (CFV). **3b**. ♀, Vietnam (CFV).
Fig. **4**. *Dihammus semisericeus* Pic, 1935. **4a**. ♂, holotype (MNHNP). **4b**. Labels.

1 ♀, ditto, Mt. Dayingshan, VI-2017, loc. coll., *in* CWT;

1 ♀, Thibet // Coll. Le Moult, *in* RBINS;

1 ♂, **Vietnam**, Lai Châu, Bản Po Bai, 25-VI-2011, loc. coll., *in* CXG;

1 ♀, ditto, *in* CGC;

1 ♂, Hà Giang, V-2020, loc. coll., *in* CXG;

1 ♀, Cao Bằng , Mt. Pionac VI-2013, *in* CGC;

1 ♂, Kon Tum, Ngọc Linh Mt. 1700 m, V-2016, loc. coll., *in* CWT;

1 ♂, **2**♀, Yên Bái, Mù Cang Chải, 1700 m, V-2017, L. L. Thanh, *in* CFV;

1 ♂, **1** ♀, ditto, *in* CWT;

1 ♂, ditto, *in* CGV;

1 ♀, Vĩnh Phúc, Tam Đảo 15-VI-2016 *in* CGC;

1 ♂, Lâm Đồng , VI-2015, N. Son lgt., *in* CFV;

1 ♂, Lâm Đồng , Bidoup Nui Ba National Park, 1600 m, 1/6-VI-2016, *in* CFV;

1 ♀, VietNam, Hanoi Pr., BaVi N. P., 21°04'04"N, 105°21'30"E, 26-29.VI. 2015, day collecting, I.G. 33.092 Lgt. J Costant & J Bresseel, *in* RBINS;

1 ♀, Chapo, prov. de / Lao-Kay, Ht. Tonkin // Coll. Le Moult / Naturaliste Paris // Cypriola permutans Pasc. / Breuning det., *in* RBINS;

1 ♂, Laokay / (Tonkin) // Coll. Le Moult / Naturaliste Paris, in RBINS;

1 ♀, Vin Pukhu / H^t Mekong / 10.V.18, *in* RBINS;

1 ♀, Hagiang, Vitalis [de Salvaza lgt.], 1914 *in* RBINS;

1 ♀, Hagiang, 1914 [R. Vitalis de Salvaza lgt.], *in* RBINS;

1 ♀, Laos / Xieng Khouang / lgt. 6-IX-1921 / R. Vitalis de Salvaza // 2388 // Monochamus permutans / Det. R. Vitalis de Salvaza, *in* RBINS;

1 ♂, **Laos** / Chalan / le 30-XI-1918 / R. Vitalis de Salvaza // 2388, *in* RBINS;

1 ♀, Indochine, Vitalis / Monochammus Permutans Pasc. P. Boppe vid., *in* RBINS;

1 ♀, Phongsali, Out-tai, V-2015, loc. coll., *in* CWT;

1 ♂, Oudomxay, Nam Kat, 1500 m, 15-VII-2022, X. Gouverneur lgt., *in* CXG;

1 ♀, ditto, 19-VII-2022, X. Gouverneur lgt.; *in* CXG;

1 ♀, ditto, 22-VII-2022, X. Gouverneur lgt., *in* CXG;

1 ♂, Luang Prabang, Ban song Cha, Phousey Lom Hmong, 1200 m, 15-IV-2019, X. Gouverneur lgt., *in* CXG;

1 ♀, Luang Prabang, Tad Thong, 430 m, 12-VII-2016, X. Gouverneur lgt., *in* CXG;

1 ♂, Houaphan, Ban Saleui, 1300 m, 01-V-2012, X. Gouverneur lgt., *in* CXG;

1 ♂ & **1** ♀, **Thailand**, VII-1997, *in* CGC;

1 ♀, Phrae, 30 km SE Lampand, near Wiang Kosui National Park, 457 m, 18°07'N, 99°67'E, 15/20-VIII-2012, *in* CDK.

Remarks. – Pic (1935) described *Dihamus* [sic!] *semisericeus* from a small male (14 mm) coming from Sichuan (Fig. 4). The following year, Breuning (1936) redescribed the same specimen with the same name, maybe mislead by the fact that it carried a label "*Orsidis semisericeus* (nov.)", a name never published. According to Breuning (1943), this species differed from *permutans* in the impunctate scape and legs.

Breuning (1938) used again the impunctate scape to differentiate *Dihammus mutans* (Fig. 5) from *permutans*. This new species, described from Assam, differed in turn from *semisericeus* in the punctate frons (Breuning, 1943, 1944). Gressitt (1951b) repeated the same differential characters but meaningfully, he recorded *mutans* from West China as well. In reality, the frons is clearly punctate in both species.

Again from Sichuan, Breuning (1958) described *Cypriola permutans occidentalis*. The taxon was described from a male (Fig. 6a); thus, the female (Fig. 6c) is only a topotype, though the label says "paratype" (Fig. 6d). This subspecies differed from the typical form in some details of the pronotal and elytral sculpture. Nevertheless, the impunctate scape, the most important feature present in this taxon, was completely ignored. Moreover, the differential characters with *semisericeus* and *mutans* were simply overlooked.

Breuning (1965, 1982) described *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* from Laos (Fig. 7) and *A. paraspeciosa* from Tibet (Fig. 8), separating them from *A. speciosa* (Gahan, 1888) through the typical characters of *permutans* (elytral granules and short pronotal teeth). Actually, both species have nothing to do with *speciosa* but they show the same characters of the taxa meet until now (*semisericeus*, *mutans* and *permutans occidentalis*). However, the differential characters with these species were once again ignored.

Definitively, apart from some questionable details of pronotal and elytral sculpture, characters strongly variable in specimens collected even in the same locality, the previous taxa do not show differences among them. Thus, they can be merged into only one taxon – *Acalolepta semisericea* – which differs from *permutans* only in the impunctate scape and legs. This taxon looks to be is an altitudinal form widespread around Himalaya, while *permutans* is in turn widespread on the hills of the southern and eastern China. Both taxa avoid the Sichuan Basin (Fig. 9). These taxa can be considered either as vicariant species or two subspecies.

Considering that both *A. permutans paucipunctata* and *A. permutans okinawana* show impunctate scapes (and even impunctate frons) and inhabit geographically separated regions, they are considered subspecies of *permutans*. Even more so, *semisericea*, which shows more resemblance and closer distribution, should be considered a subspecies of *permutans*. Correspondingly, the genitalia do not show remarkable differences.

Distribution. – According to the literature data and the examined material, *A. permutans semisericea* n. status seems to be widespread in the mountains of Eastern India (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh), Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and south-western China (Xizang, Sichuan and Yunnan). Possibly, this subspecies could be found in Guangxi together with the nominal subspecies. This distribution looks analogous to that of *Neocerambyx katarinae* Holzschuh, 2009, widespread in East India, Laos, Vietnam and Guangxi, and its subspecies *N. katarinae guangxiensis* Li, Lu & Chen, 2020, widespread in Guangxi and Guangdong (Vitali, 2022).

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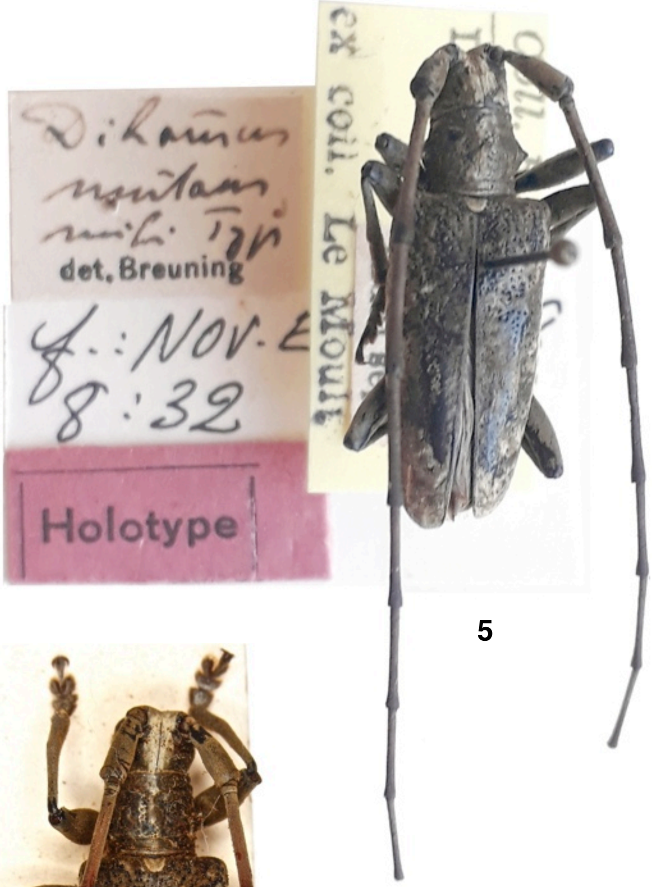
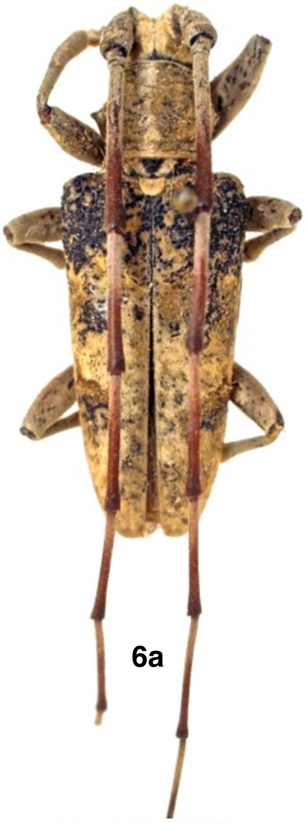


5



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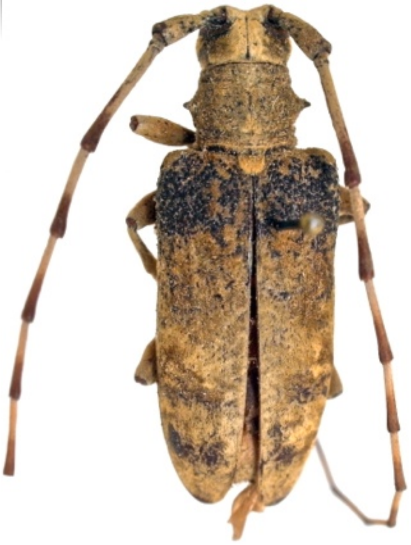

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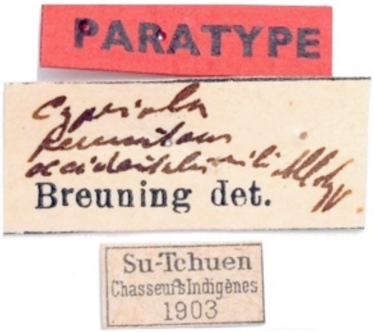
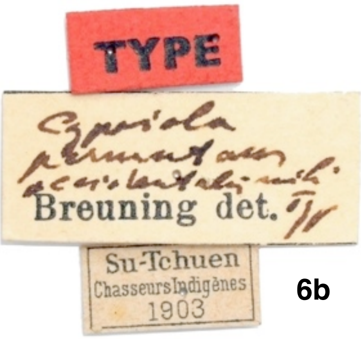


PARATYPE

Cypriola permutans occidentalis mihi.
Breuning det.

Su-Tchuen
Chasseurs Indigènes
1903

6d

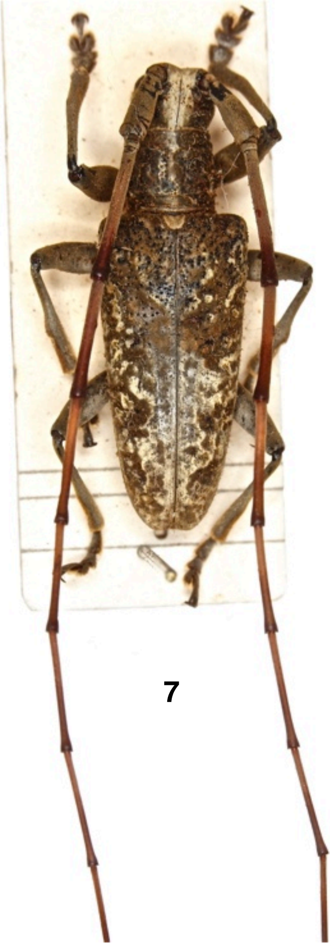


TYPE

Cypriola permutans occidentalis mihi.
Breuning det. Typ

Su-Tchuen
Chasseurs Indigènes
1903

6b



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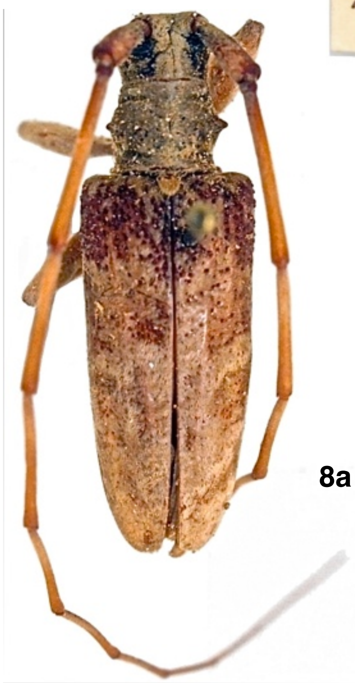
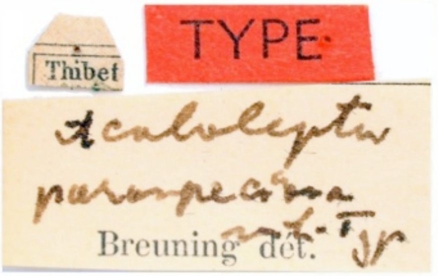


8a



Thibet

TYPE

Acalolepta
paraspeciosa
Breuning mihi. det. Typ

8b

Fig. **5**. *Dihammus mutans* Breuning, 1938, ♂, holotype (RSNB).

Fig. **6**. *Cypriola permutans occidentalis* Breuning, 1957. **6a**. ♂, holotype (MNHNP). **6b**. Labels. **6c**. ♀, topotype. **6d**. Labels.

Fig. **7**. *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* Breuning, 1965, ♂, holotype (BPBM).

Fig. **8**. *Acalolepta paraspeciosa* Breuning, 1982. **8a**. ♂, holotype (MNHNP). **8b**. Labels.

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Résumé

Vitali F., 2022. – Etude du groupe d’espèces d’*Acalolepta permutans* (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae). *Faunitaxys*, 10(59): 1 – 7.

Les espèces étroitement apparentées à *Acalolepta permutans* (Pascoe, 1857) sont étudiées. *Orsidis semisericeus* Pic, 1935 est considéré comme une sous-espèce d'*Acalolepta permutans* (Pascoe, 1857) comme suit : *Acalolepta permutans semisericea* (Pic, 1935) **n. status**. Les taxons suivants sont tous considérés comme synonymes plus anciens d’*Acalolepta permutans semisericea* : *Dihammus mutans* Breuning, 1938, *Acalolepta pseudospeciosa* Breuning, 1965, *Cypriola permutans occidentalis* Breuning, 1958 et *Acalolepta paraspeciosa* Breuning, 1982.

Mots-clés. – Lamiinae, Lamiini, *Acalolepta*, taxonomie, systématique, Chine, Indochine.

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SOMMAIRE

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Illustration de la couverture :

Troncs d'arbres *Plumeria* (frangipanier) tordus, creux, et penchés, recouvrant les ruines de l'escalier difforme et escarpé, couvert de mousse, du temple Khmer Wat Phou, classé au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, à Champassak, au Laos. Heure du soir. Les arbres sont probablement âgés de cent à deux cents ans.

Basile Morin, 25 Septembre 2019.

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Crédits photos:

Francesco Vitali : Fig. 1, 3 & 5.
Steven W. Lingafelter : Fig. 2.
Gérard Chemin : 4, 6 & 8.
Junsuke Yamasako : Fig. 7.

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